Committee was to examine, *inter-alia,* the matter of 'how to convert CMPDIL into a centre of excellence for planning and research in coal sector'. The report of the Committee on the matter is still awaited.

(c) and (d) Representations from various sources against delinking of CMPDIL from Coal India Limited were received in this Ministry. However, there is no proposal at present to delink CMPDIL from Coal India Limited.

**Shortage of housing in NER**

*152. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out by Government on shortage of housing units in the North Eastern Region, especially in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to make up for the shortage by constructing housing units, more particularly in Assam; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARISELJA): (a) and (b) Astudy was carried out by a Technical Group constituted by this Ministry to study the Estimation of Housing Shortage in the Urban areas in the context of preparation of the 11 th Five Year Plan. According to the study carried out, the distribution of estimated housing shortage as on 2007 in Assam and other North Eastern Region States including Sikkim is as under:

| State/Union Territories | Housing Shortage (Million) |
|---|---|
| Assam | 0.31 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0.02 |
| Manipur | 0.05 |
| Meghalaya | 0.04 |
| Mizoram | 0.04 |
| Nagaland | 0.03 |
| Tripura | 0.06 |
| Sikkim | 0.01 |

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Housing is a State subject and the responsibility of construction of houses lies with the State Governments. However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is concerned with the project proposals for the North Eastern States in the areas of housing projects (predominantly for the urban poor), poverty alleviation and slum improvement/ upgradation projects, under 10% lump sum provision of the budget of the Ministry to benefit North Eastern Region including Sikkim. Accordingly, the project proposals were invited from the States of Assam and other North Eastern States including Sikkim and approved. The Government has also launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005 to provide housing and infrastructural facilities to slum dwellers and weaker sections of the society in 63 cities in the country under the sub-mission, Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. Similarly, for non-Mission cities, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched with the objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers including the displaced. To make up shortage of housing units in North-Eastern Region, including Sikkim will depend upon efforts of State Governments.

**Dredging Operations for Southern Naval Command**

*153. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dredging operations for Southern Naval Command in Kochi is being carried out by Cochin Port Trust;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this operation is adding to the operating cost of Cochin Port Trust;

(d) if so, the extent thereof; and

(e) whether Cochin Port Trust has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Defence to share the cost so as to reduce its operating cost?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.